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*CLOSES FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2024*

## AGENDA

Agenda is subject to change, Rev. 02/02/2024

All Dates  
6/17-6/20

Monday  
6/17

Tuesday  
6/18

Wednesday  
6/19

Thursday  
6/20



## June 17, 2024

2:00 PM PT

### Early Conference Registration Check-In

## June 18, 2024

8:00 AM PT

### Conference Registration Check-In

9:00 AM PT

### Breakfast & Opening Plenary: A Look at Nevada's Latino Community & Political Lead...

NALEO and NALEO Educational Fund leaders will be joined by officials from Nevada and Las Vegas to welcome participants to the NALEO 41st Annual Conference.

Over the past decade, the Silver State has seen tremendous growth and change — with Latinos playing a major role in this transition. From 2010 through 2020, Nevada's total population grew from 2.7 million to 3.1 million — an increase of 15 percent — while the state's Latino population increased by 24 percent. Latinos now account for nearly 18 percent of all registered voters in Nevada. The state's number of Latino elected officials also continues to increase across all levels of office, including the only Latina in the U.S. Senate, Senator Catherine Cortez Masto. However, with this growth there also have been challenges and unique needs for the Latino community. Latinos in Nevada have been disproportionately affected by national events, such as the 2008 housing crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. During this opening plenary, panelists will provide an overview of the state's Latino community, the growth of its Latino political leadership, and the key role the state is poised to play in the national political landscape.

### NALEO Marketplace & Networking Break

### NALEO Service Project

## 10:30 AM PT

### **Addressing the Health & Social Needs of Our Nation's Aging Latino Population**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Latinos over the age of 65 will represent the largest minority population in this age group by 2028. By 2060, this same group will represent 21 percent of the overall population of individuals over 65, comprised of about 19.9 million people. As Latinos continue to age, policymakers need to plan for this population's needs, including healthcare, caregiving, housing, and other benefits and services. This session will explore strategies and best practices to help ensure that Latinos have access to resources and support to maintain a healthy quality of life as they age.

### **Disruptive Models to Accelerating Job Entry**

In an era of evolving workforce dynamics, employers are increasingly redefining job entry requirements — moving away from traditional prerequisites like postsecondary degrees. This shift is reshaping the job entry landscape and holds the potential to unlock new labor market opportunities for Latinos and all Americans. For policymakers, responding to these workforce shifts means facilitating inclusive economic growth and providing constituents with access to meaningful employment opportunities. This session will explore the multifaceted implications of this transition and the actionable role policymakers can play through strategic partnerships with employers and educational institutions to bridge the gap between talent supply and the demand to foster pathways to economic prosperity for Latinos.

### **Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) 101**

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a specialized branch of AI and machine learning that focuses on creating new, seemingly-human-generated content using large data sets — such as images, videos, text, code, and 3D models. Generative AI has the potential to revolutionize the economy, boost productivity, and transform all industries, so it is critical for policymakers to engage in this policy area to ensure their communities are not left behind as this technology evolves. This session will provide participants with an introduction to AI, highlight its various types, and provide an overview of its potential challenges and benefits as its adoption expands across multiple sectors.

### **The Imperative for Ethical Leadership Among Latino Policymakers**

As the number of Latino policymakers grows with each election, our community has the unprecedented ability to shape the nation's political landscape. However, these gains in office come with increased scrutiny and exposure—at a time when public distrust of government and its institutions is at an all-time high. In fact, over the last year, there have been several high-profile incidents of Latino elected officials betraying their oaths of office and the public trust. As such, it is critical that policymakers carry out their official duties while maintaining the public's trust and high ethical standards. This session will focus on ethical leadership in public office and help policymakers identify common areas of concern that may arise during their elected office tenure.

## **12:30 PM PT**

### **Leadership Luncheon & Plenary: The State of World Affairs & The Impact on Latinos i...**

Global and regional conflicts, political upheaval, mass migration patterns, and natural disasters are just a few contributing factors to the turmoil being felt across the globe. Inevitably, these world affairs become deciding factors for major policy areas in the United States—including the economy, security, public health, energy, and many others. This plenary will dive into the current state of world affairs and explore how and why decisions being made across the globe can affect the Latino community and the future of our nation.

## **2:00 PM PT**

### **Networking Break: Café & Confections**

## **3:15 PM PT**

### **Funding Strategies for Housing Development**

By blending public funding with private financing, policymakers are establishing innovative frameworks to enhance housing supplies to help fix the affordable housing crisis within their communities. In this session, participants will explore strategies for strengthening partnerships among public entities, the federal government, and private investors to expand the availability of resources to build more affordable housing options.

### **The New Status Quo: AI in Education**

In an era of rapid technological advancement, Artificial Intelligence (AI) stands out as one of the most transformative forces — reshaping every aspect of our lives, including how we educate students in our schools. To keep up with this technology, governing boards and administrators must develop policies and guidelines that allow educators to leverage the potential of AI in classrooms while keeping students safe. During this session, participants will explore AI's education integration and identify key questions to address as the education sector increasingly embraces its use.

### **Empowering Latina Leaders: Navigating Mental Health Challenges in Public Office**

Good physical and mental health are essential for overall well-being — yet more than one in five women in the United States reported experiencing a mental health condition — such as depression or anxiety — in the past year. For women in public service, it is especially challenging to pause, evaluate and share the distinct challenges they face while in public office and the effects to their mental health. During this discussion, panelists will discuss best practices for Latinas to observe self-care, including conversations on maintaining mental well-being while fulfilling their responsibilities as leaders.

**8:00 PM PT**

**Opening Reception: Welcome to Las Vegas!**

**June 19, 2024**

**8:00 AM PT**

**Conference Registration Check-In**

**9:00 AM PT**

### **Breakfast Plenary: Addressing the Humanitarian Crisis at the Border and Beyond**

According to projections reported by Axios, more than 8 million migrants and asylum seekers will be living in the United States by the end of September. These individuals have entered the United States through Mexico — originating from Latin America, Asia, Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and beyond. As a result of the increased migrant population, border communities have faced extreme challenges in providing basic needs. Additionally, the relocation of these migrants has had a considerable impact on cities like Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles, and New York. This plenary will highlight strategies and partnerships available to policymakers at all levels of government to address the humanitarian concerns around the migrant crisis and communities across the country.

## **NALEO Marketplace & Networking Break**

### **NALEO Service Project**

**10:30 AM PT**

#### **Mental Health in the Aging Latino Population**

Negative mental health symptoms manifest at greater rates in older Latinos than in other groups. Latinos experience higher rates of depression and are more likely to be diagnosed with Alzheimer's than their non-Latino counterparts. Additionally, while Latinas are more likely to experience depression than Latinos, Latino men are much more likely to die by suicide. This session will explore the barriers to mental health diagnoses and treatment for older Latinos, especially men, while considering the cultural stigma associated with seeking mental health services, as well as the lack of access to treatment. Panelists will also discuss some of the cultural and linguistic best practices and resources that can be utilized as policymakers prepare for a growing aging Latino population among their constituents.

#### **Data-Driven Decisions: Leveraging AI for Local Government Efficiency**

Information Technology plays a critical role in delivering services across all levels of government, and the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has the potential to bolster this essential government function. By using AI to streamline systems, government agencies can improve services for their constituents while reducing waste, preventing fraud, and improving citizen engagement — while also addressing persistent workforce shortages in the public sector. In this session, experts will provide an overview of the promise — and possible pitfalls — of AI technology in government services. Participants will also learn how jurisdictions across the country already use AI to increase government efficiency.

#### **Recipes for Success: The Do's & Don'ts of Working for Latino Policymakers**

Policymakers and their career staff have a distinct opportunity to collaborate and address the pressing issues facing their communities. By leveraging their collective expertise, elected officials and their staff can build strong relationships and work together to deliver critical government services. This session, geared at career and government relations staff, will outline the diverse roles and perspectives both staff and elected officials bring to the governing process — and how the two work in tandem to better serve their communities.

## **Healthcare Heroes: Navigating the Talent Shortage in Health Services**

With an aging population and a rise in chronic illnesses and behavioral health conditions, the strain on healthcare professionals has reached unprecedented levels — presenting policymakers with complex challenges. To ensure access to quality care for their communities, it is crucial that policymakers understand this shortage — which can inform strategic decisions on policy, funding, and workforce development initiatives. This session will equip participants with the tools and insights to navigate these pressing challenges effectively.

### **12:30 PM PT**

## **Leadership Luncheon & Plenary: Charting a Path Forward: Working through Americ...**

As a national organization with a diverse constituency — representing many political perspectives, national origins, gender, sexual orientation, and geographies — NALEO Educational Fund is proud of its ability to convene forums like the NALEO Annual Conference, facilitating critical discussions important to the Latino community while promoting civil public discourse. Unfortunately, our nation has seen a shift in recent years as hyper partisanship takes hold of political parties, public officials, and communities across the country — a practice that counters the core values of democracy and civility. This plenary will explore the effects of hyper partisanship and how Latino leaders can address extreme division in the public square, as well as demonstrate their commitment to serving their constituents and preserving American democracy.

### **2:00 PM PT**

## **Networking Break: Café & Confections**

### **3:15 PM PT**

## **What's Next for Higher Education?**

In the wake of unprecedented challenges and transformative shifts, higher education stands at a crossroads. As student enrollment continues to decline, colleges and universities must urgently reinvent themselves. By championing legislation and strategies affecting workforce development opportunities, economic competitiveness, and student social mobility, higher education administrators and governing bodies can ensure student success inside the classroom and beyond. In this session, participants will receive an overview of the forces driving higher education transformation and explore policy interventions to support institutional innovation and success.

## **The Perfect Storm: Human Trafficking & the Migrant Crisis**

An analysis of data from the National Human Trafficking Resource Center found that in 2021, more than 10,300 human trafficking incidents were reported in the country, identifying a total of 16,554 likely trafficking victims. While victims of human trafficking span all demographic and socioeconomic groups, the data also indicated that immigrants are particularly vulnerable to both sex and labor trafficking — revealing that 54 percent of victims in 2021 were recent migrants, and 81 percent of those trafficked for labor were Latino. During this session, panelists will offer an overview of the human trafficking crisis, highlighting strategies to fight this silent epidemic, as well as spotlighting resources available to help survivors get away from exploitative situations.

## **Election 2024 & Beyond: NALEO Educational Fund's Role in Strengthening Our Dem...**

NALEO Educational Fund implements various strategies to fulfill its mission of facilitating the full participation of Latinos in our nation's political process, including 1) leading advocacy efforts to protect and expand Latinos' access to civic processes; 2) conducting research to inform the field about Latino civic participation issues; 3) engaging community members to motivate them to seek U.S. citizenship, vote, get counted in the decennial census, and participate in redistricting processes; and 4) conducting election protection efforts to safeguard Latino voting rights. In this session, participants will learn more about the organization's efforts to strengthen our nation's democracy through empowering Latino communities nationwide and how to engage in these efforts directly.

## **June 20, 2024**

**8:00 AM PT**

### **Conference Registration Check-In**

**9:00 AM PT**

### **Breakfast Plenary: Strengthening the Foundations for Latino Economic Growth**

According to a recent report from the Latino Donor Collaborative, U.S. Latino economic output reached \$3.2 trillion in 2021. The same study indicates that if Latinos were an independent country, their GDP would rank fifth in the world, ahead of the United Kingdom, India, and France. At the same time, however, most major polls indicate that the economy and the rising cost of living top the list of concerns heading into the 2024 presidential election. This session will explore the current and future state of Latino economic growth and influence while identifying policies and strategies that policymakers can support and advance to increase our community's economic mobility and prosperity.



## **NALEO Marketplace & Networking Break**

### **NALEO Service Project**

**10:30 AM PT**

#### **Housing Best Practices & Policies**

Policymakers play a pivotal role in creating solutions to enhance housing supply and affordability during a national housing crisis. Knowing best practices and model policies is helpful for policymakers as these strategies and governance tools can effectively address housing shortages and create vibrant, inclusive communities. In this session, participants will reflect on tried-and-true policies that have been successful in Latino communities to better understand best practices in meeting these challenges and achieving desired outcomes.

#### **Together We Rise: Asian American and Pacific Islander and Latino Leadership**

As two of the fastest-growing communities in the United States, it is critical for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) and Latino populations to achieve political representation on par with their representation in society. In a similar manner that NALEO Educational Fund provides professional and leadership development programs for Latino public officials, AAPI LEAD recently has been created to provide these services for AAPI public officials. In this session, panelists will lead a discussion on the opportunities and challenges AAPI and Latino policymakers face as they govern their communities.

#### **The Future of Transportation Energy Sources**

The United States is a nation on the move. In 2021, approximately 28 percent of its total energy consumption was allocated to transporting people and goods. While federal and state governments have invested in and set goals to expand a zero-emissions transportation infrastructure, there is room for further progress. Although fossil fuels have historically dominated the transportation sector, there has been a notable shift toward renewable energy sources, including electricity, hydrogen, and biofuels. In this session, experts will discuss some of the lessons learned and progress made in implementing low-emission, energy-efficient, and affordable energy solutions in transportation and consider how policymakers can continue to enhance transportation energy security.

**12:30 PM PT****Leadership Luncheon: The Latino Vote in 2024**

Latinos are the second-largest population and eligible voting group in the country and are once again poised to play a decisive role in the presidential election and local and state contests nationwide. NALEO Educational Fund projects that at least 17.5 million Latino voters will turn out to the polls in November, an increase of 6.5 percent from 2020. This plenary will provide a profile of the Latino electorate, address the community's potential impact on the 2024 election, and what steps candidates up and down the ballot are taking to secure the Latino vote.

**2:00 PM PT****Networking Break: Café & Confections****Presidential Candidate Forum**

As public servants on the front lines of addressing America's policy challenges, NALEO Members continue to be key partners with the White House. The NALEO Presidential Forum will provide an opportunity for the presumptive presidential nominees to address the nation's Latino elected and appointed leadership and discuss the key policy issues that millions of Latinos will be watching as they prepare to cast their ballots in 2024.

**3:15 PM PT****Developing Safety Plans for Policymakers and Staff**

In October 2023, the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law conducted a series of national surveys and interviews among a diverse set of state legislators and local officeholders from all 50 states. Officeholders across all demographics reported experiencing increased threats or attacks within the past three years. Given this environment of heightened threats and harassment, individual preparedness is crucial for the safety and well-being of elected officials and their staff. This session will equip policymakers and their staff with best practices, strategies, and practical self-defense applications to stay safe at work, at home, and at public events.

**Empowering Families to Achieve Student Success**

Many students across the country fell behind during the remote learning periods associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. As schools have reopened, most students have recovered from their learning loss. Assessment scores, however, confirm that low-income families, students of color, and English-language learners, many of whom are Latino, fared considerably worse than their peers. Policymakers, administrators, and educators can support families to better advocate for children's educational needs by promoting a wide range of programs to accelerate students' academic recovery and growth. In this session, experts will discuss these policies and models that are proven effective in establishing favorable learning conditions for student academic success.

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